

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Presented below are specification amendments showing the changes made.

On page 4, please replace the paragraph at lines 12-21 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Q' However, there is a tradeoff between bandwidth savings over network 100 and the implementation of costly DSP resources at the nodes. In general, the higher the compression ratio required by the compression algorithm, the more DSP resources are used up processing the compression request over a given period of time. Thus, while a single DSP resource may process up to say 16 channels of data if no compression is used (i.e., in baseline PCM mode), it may be limited to 5 channels if data is compressed at 2:1, and only 2 channels if the PCM signal is compressed at 8:1. One factor behind this limitation is the limited period of time in which the DSP resource must ~~operate~~ compress the data within a T1 frame before it must move on to the next frame of data. Thus, the chosen compression ratio will have a significant impact on DSP resource usage.

On page 4, please replace the paragraph at line 22 through page 5, line 2 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Q² Following compression (if used), the data samples are delivered through network 100 to node 104, where the data may be decompressed and passed on to other CPEs or another node. The system is bi-directional to ensure 2-way communication between the nodes.

On page 5, please replace the paragraph at lines 3-15 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Q³ One problem with the communication scheme adopted in network 100 occurs when communication link 106 becomes congested, that is, when there is no available bandwidth to support new incoming calls from a CPE coupled to node 102. Consider, for example, a situation where multiple calls being transported between nodes 102 and 104 are using all or almost all of the available bandwidth on communication link 106. If a high priority call (e.g., a 911 or other emergency call) is now received at network node 102, either of two scenarios is possible. First, the high priority call may be rejected (dropped) in the face of no available bandwidth. Second, rather than dropping the high priority call (clearly a least acceptable solution); the nodes may be configured to drop lower priority calls in order to free up bandwidth to accommodate the high priority call. Although this solution may allow the high priority call to proceed, it is less than satisfactory in as much as several existing calls may be dropped to support the one new call. What is needed, therefore, is a more robust mechanism for handling such situations.

On page 6, please replace the paragraph at lines 2-9 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Q⁴ -In one embodiment, a network node is configured to negotiate for connections for high priority calls (e.g., voice calls) received at the node in the face of otherwise congested outbound communication links. The negotiation is conducted in a fashion that will preserve connections for existing calls associated with the node. For example, the

Q4 negotiation may be conducted so as to cause one or more of the existing calls to consume less bandwidth over the outbound communication links than was consumed at a time prior to reception of the high priority calls. Such negotiations may be initiated depending on the availability of codec resources and/or compression schemes at the node.

On page 10, please replace the paragraph at lines 4-11 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Q5 To more fully appreciate the processes involved in the present scheme, it is helpful to understand how calls are handled in network 100 in accordance with the present invention. When a call is received from a CPE at node 102, it is mapped to an associated network address. For example, associated with controller 116 may be a database configured to provide appropriate mappings between dialed telephone numbers and network (e.g., ATM or Internet protocol (IP) addresses). An example of such a database 300 is shown in Figure 3. In this example, the telephone number (123) 456-7891 is mapped to the network address 123.221.456.78.

On page 12, please replace the paragraph at lines 17-22 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Q6 Thus, a scheme for bandwidth renegotiation for accommodating high priority calls has been described. Although discussed with respect to specific embodiments, however, the broader applicability of the present invention should not be limited thereby. For example, although discussed with respect to the negotiation of compression schemes on

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the fly, other call parameters or connection parameters could be so negotiated on the fly.

Thus, this broader applicability of the present invention is recited in the claims that follow.
